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Personalities

Halloween is also a special CIA anniversary. Six years ago Adm. Stansfield Turner, then director, fired some 250 of the old boys there and eventually eliminated some 800 positions. It became known as the "Halloween Massacre," and Washington author David Wise has memorialized that event by the official publication today of his fast-paced, exciting new novel, "The Children's Game." In the book, which has already received rave reviews and is selling well. Wise takes his readers deep into the Langley cotton candy machine with an old spy forced back into the game who uncovers a plot of those fired old boys attempting to take over the agency.

One never knows what to expect from a former CIA director. William Colby, who directed the agency under two presidents, said at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville this weekend that as "an old cold warrior" he is now committed to a nuclear freeze. He said nuclear weapons are "unusable," the arms race is "unwinnable," unilateral restraint is "unworkable" and a world shadowed by nuclear threat is "unlivable." Colby said a nuclear freeze would be easier to monitor than a more detailed arms limitation agreement. "Can't we come up with a simpler statement?" he said. "Yes, let's just stop building new weapons."

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'Vindication' Rewards a Six-Year Struggle

By Caryle Murphy
Washington Post Staff Writer

For Elias P. Demetracopoulos there are no tasks. Only missions. Whether it is hounding the former Greek military junta, spoiling Washington's relations with the Greek colonels, ferreting out secrets or clearing his reputation, Demetracopoulos pursues his dragons with doggedness and excruciating thoroughness.

Very often he gets what he is after, and recently he has claimed another victory. Six years after The New York Times published an article that the Greek lobbyist says sullied his name, he has wrested from the Central Intelligence Agency a letter disassociating itself from the story and saying it has "no hard facts" in its files to support the allegations, attributed to the CIA, that were printed about him.

Demetracopoulos calls this "vindication." The New York Times, which published a story about the recent CIA statement that some readers took as a retreat from its earlier account, says, "The source of the retraction is the CIA, not The New York Times," according to Assistant Managing Editor Craig Whitney. The CIA declines to elaborate on its August statement.

It is a fitting epilogue to the career of one of Washington's more enigmatic figures. Among foreigners who have migrated to this political mecca with causes to plead, this Athens-born son of an archeological guide has negotiated a unique and controversial swath through Washington's political and social thickets.

Demetracopoulos was a well-known political journalist in Athens in the 1950s and 1960s whose reporting on occasion provoked clashes with U.S. officials in Greece. His reputation in this city took seed when he fled Greece after the 1967 military junta and began a one-man crusade on Capitol Hill against the Greek colonels.

He took to Washington like a fish to water, quickly making high-level connections in both Republican and Democratic circles by building on contacts he had made during his journalistic career.

A man of medium build whose oval head once had "so much black hair," according to its 54-year-old owner, Demetracopoulos is gregarious and enthusiastic, with a self-mocking sense of humor. There is a European accent to his manners and speech, which like his mind are obsessively precise. He neither drinks nor smokes, and one of his passions is chocolate milkshakes.

"He's a lobbyist by birth. . . . He's good at meeting people, shaking hands, getting them to know him," said a congressional aide.

But even those who know him as "Elias" say they do not know him well. He has no family and no formal organizational ties in his ethnic community. "He's kind of a mystery person. He kind of likes that role. That's my impression," said one acquaintance. "He kind of creates this air of mystery about him."

After arriving in Washington, Demetracopoulos lived at the Fairfax Hotel (now the Ritz-Carlton), then owned by Louise Gore, a prominent figure in the Republican Party in Maryland who had befriended the Greek exile. Almost immediately after arriving, he landed a job as a foreign consultant for a Wall Street brokerage firm called Brimberg & Co. A divorcee whose former wife is now dead, he often escorted well-known Washington women to social functions.

But this rather glamorous facade evaporated, according to one acquaintance, with a visit to Demetracopoulos' one-room flat in the hotel. A sofa bed, telephone, table and few chairs made up his furniture. The rest of the room was swamped with the inventory of Demetracopoulos' trade: piles and piles of files.

"When you walked in you probably saw 20,000 pieces of paper," said Elias Vlantou, a friend and activist in the Greek-American community. "It was not elegance. It was dedication. . . . I think this was his only interest in the world—information about what Greece was doing, about what the United States was doing, what Turkey was doing. That's all he cared about."

During the junta period, Demetracopoulos, who describes his political views as "centrist-liberal," provided information to newspapers back home, but says he was not paid for it.

"Demetracopoulos was every night on the phone dictating to me very exciting reports from congressional meetings and news which helped our cause of getting rid of the colonels," said Louis Danos, then editor of a small antijunta paper and now press counselor at the Embassy of Greece.

For his antijunta efforts, Demetracopoulos was stripped of his Greek citizenship from 1970 until 1974, when the colonels were ousted.

But it was not only the junta that Demetracopoulos angered.

In 1968, he went to the Democratic Party, and, he says, told them that the Greek junta was funneling money to the Nixon-Agnew campaign through a Boston-based, Greek-American businessman named Thomas Pappas. Later, in 1971, he made similar allegations to a congressional subcommittee investigating Greek-American relations. Though these allegations made their way into the press and the political lore of Washington, they have never been proved.

Soon after, Demetracopoulos says he began to feel the heat. In 1971, an anonymous memo written in the State Department was given to House Speaker Carl Albert. It stated that Demetracopoulos' reporting while he was still in Greece had caused "considerable embarrassment" to Queen Fredericka and King Constantine and that he "caused friction in Greek-American relations. . . by publishing highly classified documents."

The memo went on to challenge Demetracopoulos' veracity by raising doubts about his past. Demetracopoulos learned about the memo from a congressional aide and, after he made heated protests, the State Department retracted it and sent him an apology.

Demetracopoulos says Nixon administration officials, including Attorney General John N. Mitchell, directly and indirectly threatened him with deportation because of the Pappas affair. Gore confirmed Mitchell made such threats to her about Demetracopoulos. Mitchell said that allegation was "nonsense" and "totally ridiculous."

In addition, Demetracopoulos says, the Justice Department began asking questions about him. He eventually obtained a memo

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CIA Director Will Give Lecture

FULTON, Mo. (AP) — Despite objections from the majority of the faculty, CIA Director William J. Casey is scheduled to go on as scheduled for the Green Foundation lecture at Westminster College here Oct. 29, the school has announced.

The college's board of trustees has reaffirmed its invitation to Casey, and Casey's office said Tuesday that the director would present his speech as planned.

Faculty criticism of Casey centered on allegations of improper financial dealings, according to Bruce Hackmann, the college's director of

press relations. But CIA spokesman Dale Peterson said all the allegations had been reviewed by the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee in 1981 and 1982 and had been found to be "absolutely untrue."

The faculty also had contended that several recent Green lecturers had been conservative rather than covering a spectrum of political positions.

John R. Green II, a lawyer in St. Louis and grandson of the lecture founder, said it would be "inappropriate to attach my grandfather's name to a lecture given by this man."